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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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30th ANNUAL PLAQUEMINE BANK & TRUST COMPANY ART ALERT ART SHOW --

JUDGES ANNOUNCED

Plaquemine Bank and Trust Company will host the 30th Annual Art Alert Art Show on Wednesday, April 26, 2016 and has issued its "Calling for Artists". The Art Alert Art Show is open to all natives and residents of Iberville and West Baton Rouge Parishes. The art show is open to children under 10 years of age; children 10 - 13 years of age; young adults 14 - 18 years of age; and adults 18+ (including both professional and non-professional artists.) Each artist in the adult category may enter a maximum of two pieces, which have not been previously entered in this contest, in any two dimensional format. Artists under 18 years of age may enter only one piece which has not been previously entered in this contest. First, second and third place prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$30 respectively, will be awarded in each category. Those receiving honorable mentions and bankers choice awards will receive \$15 each.

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Stephen Panepinto, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Plaquemine Bank said, “Our 2017 judges, for the 30th annual Art Alert Art Show, will be Nikki Spencer and Judi Betts!” He continued, “We are excited to feature artists from our community for 30 years. Each year we are impressed by our local talent and so pleased to support the arts from young school children to professional artists.

Art entries may be delivered to Plaquemine Bank & Trust Company from April 10 – 25, 2017. Plaquemine Bank will host a reception in the lobby to recognize all participating artists. This reception will be open to the public. The celebration will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 26, 2017.

Nikki Spencer, a Baton Rouge artist, received her undergraduate degree in Interior Architecture and a Masters of Architecture degree, from the University of Oregon. She taught design graphics, rendering and drawing for 30 years in the Interior Design Program at Louisiana State University. Nikki currently serves on the Workshop Committee of the Louisiana Art and Artists Guild and participates in its member shows. Nikki provided the artwork and design for many Boy Scout patch sets and has been named the Istrouma Area Council (BSA) Council Artist! Her work has also been shown locally at Frameworks Gallery and the annual LPB Art Auction. Ms. Spencer is a member of the Urban Sketchers, a global community of artists who practice on-location drawing. She has experience working in a variety of media, including encaustic monoprints, mosaics, watercolor, collage and calligraphy. Travel and sketchbook journaling are two of her favorite activities.

Judi Betts nws, aws has attained an international reputation for her transparent watercolor paintings. Her paintings have won well over 100 awards in major competitions including The National Academy of Design, American Watercolor Society, National Watercolor Society and Watercolor USA. After 25 years of full membership, Judi was invited in 2016 to do a demonstration in New York City for their exhibit. Invitational exhibitions include State of the Art, Taiwan Art Education Institute, Federation of Canadian Artists, Walt Disney's EPCOT Center, Allied Artists of America at the Butler Institute, Pogan Galleries (CA), "*Masters of Watercolor*", and Selected Artists of the National Arts Club. Judi was selected for a special award for "Contributions to the medium of Watercolor" by Watercolor USA Honor Society and in 2012 received their Lifetime Achievement Award, their highest honor. Ms. Betts is the author of the award winning books *WATERCOLOR...Let's Think About It!* (5th printing) and *PAINTING...a QUEST toward XTRAORDINARY* (5 awards) and is also a contributor to many prominent art magazines. Over her career, she has been juror/judge for over 150 national/international and regional competitions. More than 425 workshops have been presented by Judi; and she has given invitational sessions for watercolor societies in Norway, Puerto Rico, Sweden and Canada. She will teach in Tuscany, Italy this summer. Judi is a signature member of the American and National Watercolor Societies. She also holds memberships in both the National and Salmagundi Art Clubs in New York City; and is listed in *WHO'S WHO IN AMERICAN ART*. Her paintings are included in corporate, university, museum and private collections.

Plaquemine Bank and Trust Company is a full-service community bank established in 1968.

For additional information, please visit www.plaqbank.com.

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Cutlines:

Nikki Spencer

Judi Betts, nws, aws